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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,770	03/31/2001	Anil K. Annadata	M-11405 US	6431

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, QUYNH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,770

Applicant(s)

ANNADATA ET AL.

Examiner

Quynh H. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on December 28, 2004 has been entered. Claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 23, 27, and 33-41 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-41 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 13, and 23 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1- 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dilip et al. (U.S. Patent 6,704,409).

Regarding claims 1, 13, and 23, Dilip et al. teach maintaining real-time data for multi-channel communication queuing (abstract and col. 2, lines 24-37); forming a list of agent data depending on area of expertise (col. 5, line 67 through col. 6, line 3); wherein the agent data includes information regarding a corresponding status of an agent for each type of communication media the agent is authorized to access (col. 5, lines 9-21). For example, an agent handling only telephone call transactions may only use a telephone without requiring a computer or the status of this agent is not text / email

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messages; an agent handling only e-mail messages may require a computer system, but not a telephone or the status of this agent is no voice calls.

However, Dilip et al. do not explicitly suggest forming a list of agent data based on a relationship between an agent and a type of communication media the agent access.

In the customer service center, agents grouped together based on type of devices the agents may utilize as necessary for load balancing. This is the obvious (if not inherent) way to operate a customer service center. This is the nature of the customer service center.

Regarding claims 2, 14, and 24, Dilip et al. teach the data includes information related to the agent's skills (col. 5, lines 12-21 and col. 6, lines 1-3).

Regarding claims 3, 15, and 25, Dilip et al. teach maintaining a list of media route (col. 5, line 45 through col. 6, line 28).

Claims 4-6 recite the language **"at least one of..."** and therefore only one element is needed to be addressed. For example, compiling statistic of the media routes or for a communication channel of a specific media type including at least one of: waiting time during a period, handling time during a period (col. 11, lines 58-60), number of abandon requests, longest waiting time, percentage of available agent, number of work item, and number of work items delivered to an agent, the statistic of the media routes may only have number of work items delivered to an agent.

Similarly, claims 16-18 and 26-28 recite the language "including at least one of" percentage of available agent / availability percent (col. 12, lines 10-12).

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Regarding claims 7, 19, and 29, Dilip et al. teach compiling at least one of: the route for the work items (Fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 49-58).

Regarding claims 8, 20, and 30 Dilip et al. teach assigning a priority value to the media routes (abstract, lines 8-10, col. 6, lines 29-38, and col. 7, lines 42-49).

Regarding claims 9, 10, 21, 22, 31, and 32, Dilip et al. do not teach setting a maximum number of queued items for the media routes and a time for escalating a work item. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the mentioned above feature into Dilip's system in order to better manage the customer service center.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected are rejected for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Dilip et al. teach controller 11 that contains computer instructions to implement the method of these claims (col. 15, lines 20-31).

Regarding claims 33, 36, and 39 Dilip et al. teach each corresponding status of a plurality of corresponding statuses corresponds to a different type of communication media (col. 5, lines 9-21). For example, an agent handling only telephone call transactions may only use a telephone without requiring a computer or the status of this agent is not text / email messages; an agent handling only e-mail messages may require a computer system, but not a telephone or the status of this agent is no voice calls.

Regarding claims 34, 37, and 40 Dilip et al. teach the agent data includes an amount of time the agent has worked on an active work item using each communication media (col. 3, lines 53-65; col. 11, lines 58-60).

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Regarding claims 35, 38, and 41 Dilip et al. teach corresponding status of the agent is maintained in real-time (col. 13, lines 30-40).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 6/27/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to independent claims 1, 13, and 23, Applicant argues that:

- Dilip describes an agent being available to process a new transaction. This is irrelevant.
- Dilip does not recognize that agents may work simultaneously on different work items using different communication media; instead, Dilip teaches a transaction controller that makes a choice between transactions in the agent's queue based upon the priority of the transaction. Examiner respectfully submits that the above are not recited in the claims.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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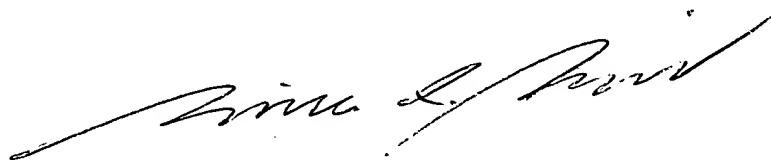
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

qhn



BING Q. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER